

60,426-302; 2000P07962US01

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims.

1. (Previously Presented) A mounting assembly for a seatbelt tension sensor comprising:

a rigid member having one end operably coupled to a seatbelt portion;
a sensor mounted on said rigid member for measuring strain exerted on said rigid member by an input force applied to the seatbelt portion; and

a bracket having a first mounting portion for attachment to said rigid member and a second mounting portion for attachment to a vehicle structure to define a guide for isolating said sensor from non-axial input forces applied to the seatbelt portion wherein said first mounting portion is parallel to said rigid member and said second mounting portion is non-parallel to said rigid member.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1 wherein said second mounting portion is perpendicular to said rigid member.

4. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1 wherein said second mounting portion includes a pair of bosses mounted on opposing sides of said bracket, each of said bosses including an aperture for supporting a pivot shaft.

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5. (Original) An assembly according to claim 4 wherein said rigid member defines an axial input load force axis and said pivot shaft defines a pivot axis that is transverse to said axial input load force axis.

6. (Original) An assembly according to claim 4 including an electrical connector mounted to said rigid member adjacent to said sensor for receiving strain measurements from said sensor and transmitting said measurements to a central processor to determine the magnitude of said input force.

7. (Original) An assembly according to claim 6 wherein said rigid member is a plate having a first end for attachment to said first mounting portion and a second end operably coupled to the seatbelt portion, said first and second ends being interconnected by a neck portion having a width that is less than the width of said first and second ends and wherein said sensor is mounted on said neck portion.

8. (Original) An assembly according to claim 7 wherein said first end defines a first opening and said first mounting portion defines a second opening, wherein said first end is overlaid on said first mounting portion to align said first and second openings.

9. (Original) An assembly according to claim 8 wherein said electrical connector is mounted to said rigid member adjacent to said second end between said first opening and said neck portion.

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10. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1 wherein said vehicle structure is a B-pillar.

11. (Previously Presented) A bracket for a seatbelt force sensor assembly comprising:

a generally flat body portion for supporting a seatbelt force sensor assembly, said body portion being defined by a first end, a second end, a first side interconnecting said first and second ends to define a first edge, and a second side interconnecting said first and second ends to define a second edge opposite from said first edge; and

a plurality of boss portions including at least a first boss portion extending outwardly along a portion of said first edge and a second boss portion extending outwardly along a portion of said second edge wherein said body portion and said boss portions define a guide and wherein said first end includes a mounting portion for attachment to the seatbelt force sensor assembly and said first and second boss portions are positioned adjacent to said second end for attachment to a vehicle structure and to define a guide for isolating the sensor assembly from non-axial input forces.

12. (Cancelled)

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13. (Previously Presented) A bracket according to claim 11 wherein said first and second boss portions include circular openings aligned with one another for supporting a pivot shaft.

14. (Original) A bracket according to claim 13 wherein said body portion pivots about a pivot axis defined by said pivot shaft and relative to said vehicle structure.

15. (Original) A bracket according to claim 14 wherein said vehicle structure is a B-pillar.

16. (Original) A bracket according to claim 14 wherein said vehicle structure is a side anchor mount.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of measuring a seatbelt force comprising the steps of:

mounting a seatbelt force sensor to a rigid plate member;
mounting one end of the rigid plate member to a seatbelt portion;
mounting an opposite end of the rigid plate member to a vehicle structure;
pivotally mounting a guide member at one end between the rigid plate member and the vehicle structure;
applying an input force to the seatbelt portion;

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isolating the seatbelt force sensor from input forces applied at an angle by guiding the seatbelt portion with the guide member; and

generating an output signal from the seatbelt force sensor representative of the force applied to the seatbelt portion.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1 wherein said second mounting portion defines a pivot axis extending from a first side edge to a second side edge of said bracket.

20. (Currently Amended) An assembly according to claim 1 [wherein said] wherein said first mounting portion comprises a fixed attachment interface between said bracket and said rigid member.

21. (Previously Presented) A bracket according to claim 11 wherein said first and second boss portions define a pivot attachment.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17 including the step of measuring strain exerted on the rigid plate member by the input force with the seatbelt force sensor.

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23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17 including the step of pivoting the guide member about an axis defined by a pivot shaft extending between a pair of bosses.
